

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE
National Urban League

REPORT ON ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY

January 23, 1952

MEMORANDUM

TO: Reginald A. Johnson, Director
Field Services
and
Julius A. Thomas, Director
Industrial Relations and Vocational Guidance

FROM: Ray E. Morris
Field Secretary

SUBJ: NUL-UCDS Exploratory survey of the Impact of the Defense Emergency on Atlantic City, New Jersey, and the Relationship of Atlantic City, New Jersey to the Social Problems Connected With Developments in Bucks County. December 19, 1951.

.....

SUMMARY

Atlantic City has a labor surplus. It has no acute shortages of workers. However, its distance from lower Bucks County is a definite deterrent to those who would be interested in jobs there. There are several cars of Negro construction workers that commute each day. Many more Negroes are interested in work in lower Bucks County, but want more convenient housing accommodations. As a whole, the city hasn't taken much cognizance of the lower Bucks County developments, but social agencies see in it some yet to be realized role, clarification of which should be aided by the NUL and other national agencies operating in lower Bucks County.

POPULATION

Total - city (1950): 61,657, a decrease of 3.8 per cent since 1940. Non-white population: 15,862, an increase of 7.1 per cent over 1940. Non-whites are 27.34 per cent of the total city population.

Total - metropolitan area (1950): 132,399, an increase of 6.7 per cent over 1940. Non-white population: 21,614, an increase of 8.0 per cent over 1940. Non-whites are 16.32 per cent of the total population of the metropolitan area.

MAJOR EMPLOYERS

In the major occupational groups there are some 258 employers reported for Atlantic City, that employ approximately 16,778 workers. There are 60 employers who are doing some work for the defense emergency, and employ approximately 3,188 workers. The other 198 major employers have about 13,590 workers.

There are 20 major essential employers each with more than 30 workers - total employment, approximately 2,700 workers; and 40 each with less than 30 workers - total employment, approximately 488.

Hotels are the largest employers.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Atlantic City is a resort city. Over-all employment moves according to hotel and amusement requirements. There has been an increase in employment since the Korean war, but the actual figures followed the usual resort city pattern - up in the spring and summer, down in the fall and winter. Because of the small proportion of other than hotel and amusement workers, the affect of the defense emergency has been indirect. There is a labor surplus in Atlantic City now.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT SINCE JUNE 1, 1950

Month and Year	Employment	Unemployment
1950 - May	43,475	5,700
July	48,000	4,100
September	45,625	3,600
November	40,525	4,950
1951 - January	38,050	6,950
March	39,125	5,500
May	42,725	4,500
July	49,800	3,200
September	46,475	3,300
November	39,325	4,300

A distinct unevenness may be observed in the relation of employment to unemployment (shown in the preceding chart). The ratio of one does not vary directly with the other. This is due largely to in-migration at some points and out-migration at others. Roughly, there is in-migration during the spring and summer, and as work opportunities decrease out-migration carries even established residents out-of-town for work. Manufacturing employment went up by 250 in July, 1950, over May; dropped by 375 by November; up 425 by May, 1951; up another 625 in just two months, but then down by 650 by November. September, 1950, manufacturing employment was 5,900; September, 1951, was 6,650.

The Atlantic City, N.J. State Employment Service manager states his belief that at least 1,000 persons from Atlantic City will be available for work in Camden, replacing workers gone to jobs in Bucks County.

Several automobiles carry full loads of Negroes to Bucks County every day. These are construction workers, who report, also, that they know of one Negro foreman working in the Bucks County construction picture. He does not have an all-Negro crew.

The International H.C.B. and C.L. Union, No. 415 of America, an apparently "separate Negro" union affiliated with the AF of L, has four or five of its members gone to work in Bucks County, but who still hold local cards. The bargaining union in Bucks County has recognized their Atlantic City union cards.

SOCIAL SERVICES

According to the Executive Director of the Atlantic City Community Chest, local social agencies have not felt any particular impact of the defense emergency. It is recognized that during the off-season many persons would be led to leave Atlantic City for jobs that are direct or indirect results of developments in Bucks County.

The community as a whole has prospered, and is finding increased awareness of the role of social agencies in its midst. The Chest goal for the 1951 campaign was \$199,752; 80 per cent of that goal was reached by December 17, which was as much as were total receipts for 1950. In so far as Bucks County is concerned, the Chest indicates its interest in NUL's and other national agencies' counsel.

Welfare Load

The welfare relief load has dropped by one-third compared to averages immediately preceding the Korean war.

cc: Mr. Granger, Mr. Moss
Mr. Johnson
Mr. Jackson, Mr. Alston
Mr. Parris
Dr. Baumer, Mr. Tucker
Mr. Pope, Mr. Finley, Miss Tannayhill